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## A New Australian *Microdon* with a Name Change

(Diptera : Syrphidae)

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A new species and a new name are proposed for two Australian *Microdon* flies. The new species of *Microdon* was noted while conducting an investigation into the generic classification of the Microdontinae. The identification of this new form led to the discovery of a senior primary homonym for another Australian species. *Microdon modestus* Ferguson is preoccupied by *Microdon modestus* Knab, described from North America, thus I proposed the name *M. fergusonii* for this Australian species.

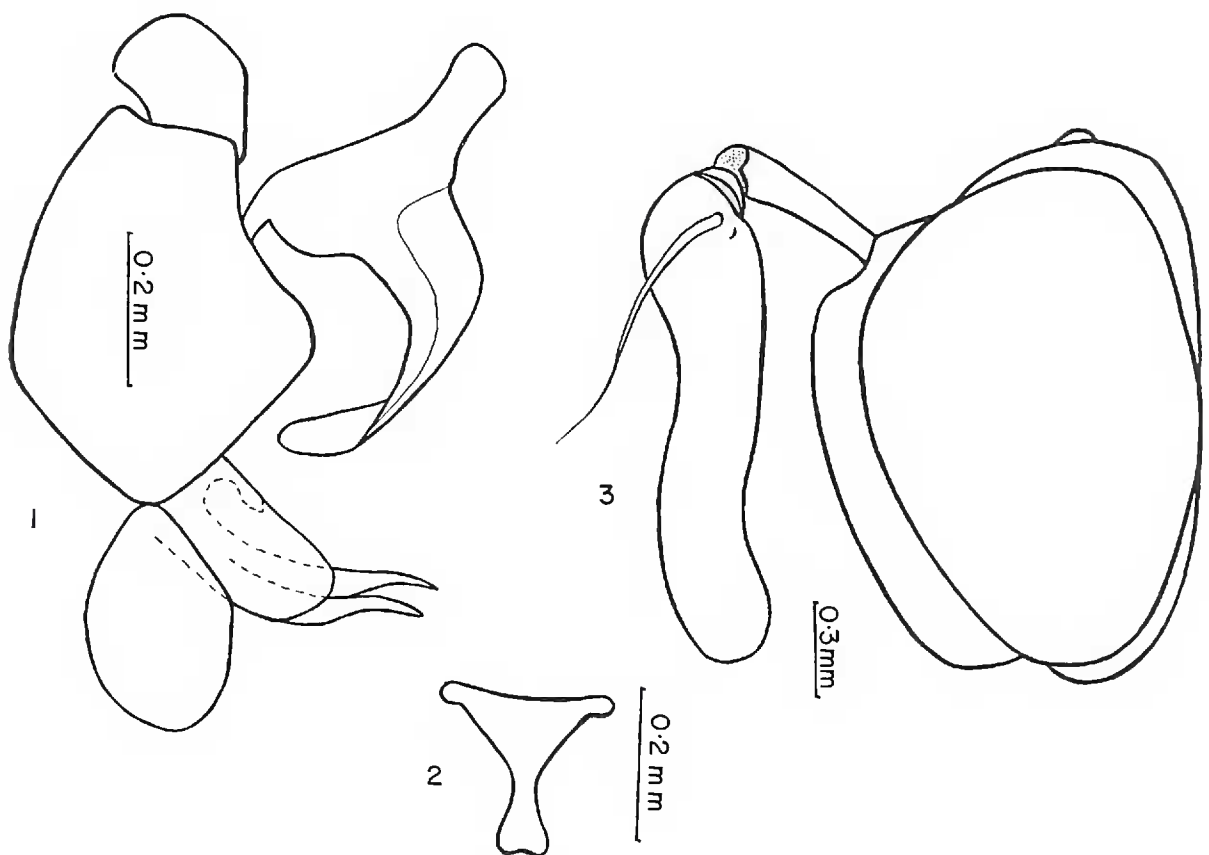
### ***Microdon fergusonii* Thompson, new name**

*Microdon modestus* Ferguson, 1927, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, 51: 170, not Knab, 1917, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 30: 139.

### ***Microdon brownii* Thompson, new species**

Face yellow; cheeks brown; front, vertex, and occiput black. Antennae longer than face; third segment more than twice as long as first, twisted longitudinally and swollen basally. Thorax mostly dark brown, scutellum unarmed. Legs mostly orange, femora brown except for the apices. Abdomen orange.

MALE.—*Head*: (fig. 1) Face yellow with white pile; cheeks and edge of the epistoma brown with white pile; front black except for a small orange spot above the antennal bases, with golden and black pile intermixed; vertex black, with golden and black pile intermixed; occiput black except for two large yellowish white spots behind the cheeks, with white pile below becoming yellower above. Face with slightly convergent sides, widest at oral margin; front short, about one-sixth as long as face, narrowest at the constriction between the front and vertex, about one-half the greatest width of the face at this point; vertex four times as long as front, not produced and as wide as the face at the posterior margins of the eyes; ocellar triangle roughly equilateral, occupying about one-fourth the width of the vertex. Antennal ratio: 5 : 1 : 12.5. Antennae dark brown except for



Figs. 1-3. *Microdon browni* Thompson. 1. Male genitalia in lateral view. 2. Ejaculatory apodeme. 3. Head of male in lateral view.

a reddish brown spot at the aristal base, with dark pile, about one and one-half times as long as the face; third antennal segment elongate, base swollen and twisted medially, apex rounded and twisted laterally, with a small sensory pit near the base of the arista; arista light brown. *Thorax*: dark brown except for yellow on the humeri, propleurae, pteropleurae, postalar calli, and the upper edge of the hypopleurae; with black pile except for yellow pile on the pleurae, scutellum, and across the dorsum anteriorly at the humeri and posteriorly before the scutellum. Scutellum simple and unarmed. *Legs*: orange except dark brown bases of the anterior four coxae and the basal four-fifths of all the femora. Leg pile white except with black pile intermixed on the dorsal surfaces of all the tarsi. *Wings*: smoky, completely microtrichose except for the bare posterior margin of the second basal cell. Third vein ( $R_{4+5}$ ) with a downward produced spur in the first posterior cell; apical cross vein squared, with a spur at the angle and slightly recurrent; and posterior cross vein slightly more curved than the apical, and with a short spur at the angle also. *Squamae* and *Halters*: white, squamal fringe with a brownish tinge. *Abdomen*: oval, orange except brown first segment. Pile of the dorsum appressed and black except for white pile on the second segment, the lateral margins and apical corners of the third segment, and the lateral margins and in the form of short lunate spots extending in from the lateral margins on the apical fourth of the fourth segment. Venter orange with white pile. *Postabdomen*: dark brown with light pile. Genitalia similar in general structure to *M. mutabilis* Linnaeus (genotype); cerci simple, roughly hemispherical on outer sides, flat on inner sides; styles simple, dorsal portions upturned and rounded at the apex, ventral portions slightly excavated on the posterior half, thus forming a shallow de-

pressed edge; penis sheath short, as long as broad; ejaculatory hood short, dorsally recurved at base, divided into two short processes posteriorly; chitinous box small, spherical; and ejaculatory apodeme flat and triangularly flared on apical portion (figs. 2 & 3). *Length*: 7.5 mm; antennae 2.5 mm.

*Holotype male*.—ALDGATE, LOFTY RANGES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA, 11 December 1950 (W. L. Brown). The type is deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (# 31575).

*Discussion*.—*M. browni* does not appear to be closely related to any known Australian species of *Microdon*. The yellow face, nonmetallic color of the body, and the long and unusually shaped third antennal segment will distinctly separate *M. browni* from the other native species.

I take great pleasure in naming this species after its discoverer, Dr. Brown, a noted myrmecologist. I have been fortunate enough to have met Dr. Brown on a few occasions and thus would like to feel that I am not only naming this species after Brown the collector but also after a friend, whose encouraging words have done much to help stimulate my interest and work on syrphids.

The nomenclature used in describing the postabdomen is that of Metcalf (1921).

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the staff, especially Drs. Darlington, Evans, and Lawrence, of the Entomology Department of the Museum of Comparative Zoology for providing the facilities and material for this study and others.

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